

Claims

- [c1] Apparatus comprising:
- a computer system motherboard;
 - a security element coupled to said motherboard and enabling operation as a trusted computer platform;
 - a first input device coupled to said motherboard and enabling input of data to said security element; and
 - a second input device selectively interposed between said first input device and said security element and enabling selective imposition of a security requirement for effective input of data to said security element from said first input device.
- [c2] Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said security element is mounted on said motherboard.
- [c3] Apparatus according to Claim 2 further comprising a daughter card and wherein said motherboard has a security element socket receiving said daughter card and said security element mounted on said daughter card.
- [c4] Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said first input device is a keyboard.
- [c5] Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said second input device is a keypad.
- [c6] Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said second input device is a biometric measuring device.
- [c7] Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said second input device is a card reader.
- [c8] Apparatus according to Claim 1 further comprising a switch interposed between said second input device and said security element and selectively enabling interposition of second input device.
- [c9] Apparatus comprising:
- a computer system motherboard;
 - a security element mounted on said motherboard and enabling

operation as a trusted computer platform;
a first input device coupled to said motherboard and enabling input of data to said security element;
a second input device coupled to said first input device and said security element and enabling imposition of a security requirement for effective input of data to said security element from said first input device; and
a switch interposed between (a) said second input device and (b) said first input device and said security element and enabling selective interposition of said second input device between said first input device and said security element.

[c10]

A method comprising the steps of:

coupling a keyboard to a security element in a trusted computing platform system to enable entry of data to the security element; and
selectively interposing between the keyboard and the security element a second input device imposing a security requirement for effective entry of data to the security element from the keyboard.

[c11]

A method according to Claim 10 wherein the step of selectively interposing a second input device comprises switching the state of connection of a second input device between being interposed and being excluded from interposition.

[c12]

A method according to Claim 10 wherein the step of selectively interposing a second input device and imposing a security requirement comprises imposing a requirement for entry of a numeric sequence.

[c13]

A method according to Claim 10 wherein the step of selectively interposing a second input device and imposing a security requirement comprises imposing a requirement for entry of a biometric measurement.

[c14]

A method according to Claim 10 wherein the step of selectively interposing a second input device and imposing a security requirement comprises imposing a requirement for submission of a physical key.